

## EPA Region 5 Pre-SFIREG Meeting Report

**Meeting Dates:** May 8th and 9th, 2019

**Meeting Location:** Chicago, Illinois - EPA Region 5 Office

**Report Prepared By:** Brian Verhougstraete (MI) – Region 5 SFIREG Representative

**In Attendance:** Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, White Earth Nation, and EPA Region 5

### **Full SFIREG Topics**

#### **1. State Updates:**

- Most states in the region are developing hemp programs for licensing and regulating growers and states are already getting pesticide use questions.
- Several states indicated that they are receiving more and more inquiries from citizens and stakeholders that are concerned about the safety of glyphosate.
- Several states indicated that they are seeing an increase in certification activity due to the revised dicamba labels for 2019.
- Wisconsin reported that they are finding atrazine residues in urban areas and believe it is due to deposition from rainwater contaminated with atrazine.
- White Earth reported that they are working with EPA through the TPPC to ensure the Agency is considering tribal uses of natural resources when they are conducting their risk assessments.
- Several states are working on new IT systems. Some states are working with vendors to develop custom built systems, while others are building semi-custom systems using existing platforms. States involved in system development noted the significant impacts the projects are having on their human and financial resources.

#### **2. Dicamba:**

**Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**

3. Potential 24(c) Changes:

## Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

4. C&T:

Region 5 has a regional C&T workshop planned for May. States continue to be concerned about the March 4, 2020, submission deadline and frustrated at the Agency's delayed release of guidance materials and the Agency's changing interpretation of the rule. The Agency's current position on plan changes that must be put into laws/regs vs. what can be accomplished through policy was a particular issue for SLA's. Specifically, the current interpretation that exam competency standards need to be codified into laws and regulations was the most concerning issue for several SLA's and one they seek further clarification on as soon as possible.

## Deliberative Process / Ex. 5

5. UAV's:

MN provided an update on their use of UAV for inspection purposes. MN has two pilots and a UAV that they plan to potentially use for incident response or complaint investigation starting with the current use season. Other states in the region are interested and/or working on developing a regulatory UAV program.

MI reported that they are currently prevented by law from using UAV's at state licensed or permitted facilities. State departments may use a UAV if given permission by the licensed facility, they have a search warrant, or there is imminent threat to public health, safety or natural resources. The law also requires that any data collected shall be furnished promptly upon request to the facility without the need to file an information request under the freedom of information act (FOIA).

6. Problematic Pesticide Label Language and Conflicting Interpretations:

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Region 5 SLA's believe this is a significant enough issue that SFIREG should consider working with EPA to address the problem.

7) Legal uses of Glyphosate on Liberty Link GT27 Soybeans:

# **Deliberative Process / Ex. 5**